

Drawing Corrections

Replacement sheets 1-3 are attached hereto.

The double appearance of Figure 1 has been addressed.

Figure 1 has been amended to add reference numeral 12.

Figure 2 has been redrawn to include section lines for wall 12 and to clarify opening 10.

Figure 3 is a new figure the addition of which is proposed responsive to the Examiner's requirement that a drawing be added to show the interlacing of the side wall 12 and band 14. Upon approval of addition of this new Figure, paragraphs [0025] and [0030] will be amended to refer to Figure 3. The drawing corrections and new figure do not constitute new matter.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Section 2 subpart a, the Examiner objected to the double inclusion of Figure 1. This error has been resolved herein.

The Examiner asserts in Section 2, subpart b, that eye 10 is not clear. Figure 1 shows eye 10 quite clearly. Eye 10 is a hole which is stamped into the flattened seal area, and is used to secure the device to the frame of a car, for example with lugs as described in the specification in paragraph [0022]. Figure 2 has been amended to add section lines to the wall 12 in all locations except eye 10 and this is believed to fully address the Examiner's concerns.

As to subpart c of section 2 of the Office Action, see above and also specification paragraph [0022].

Section 2 subpart d deals with band 14. This is submitted to be entirely clear. The specification alternatively refers to this component as a layer or a band of strip shaped film. The drawings show band 14 schematically as the single line extending through the seal area 8. The specification has been amended in 2 places to refer alternatively to band 14 as band or layer 14. In light of the clear teachings of the specification and drawings, it is submitted that the term "band" is clear to a person of skill in the art, and that the specification and drawings are consistent and proper in this regard.

As to Section 2, subpart e, seal 8 includes the flattened portion of wall 12 and band 14. This is shown in the drawings, see Figure 2. Reconsideration of this holding is requested.

Section 2, subpart f, is addressed by the addition of reference numeral 12 to Figure 1. Reference numeral 12 is the sidewall that defines the tube of the gas supply system and which is flattened to form the seal of the present invention. It is submitted that the drawings as amended resolve this issue.

Section 2, subpart g, is believed to be resolved by the addition of section lines to the cross sectional view of Figure 2.

Based upon the foregoing, and responsive to subpart h of Section 2, it is submitted that the specification and drawings as amended herein are clear and proper, and withdrawal of the Section 2 objection is respectfully requested.

In Section 3, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show the interlaced seal and the plastically deformable material. New Figure 3 has been added by drawing corrections in this paper to show the interlaced seal. As shown therein, the flattened walls 12 and band 14 are deformed and interlaced to form the seal. This new figure is submitted to address the Examiner's concerns and, as set forth above, upon approval of the addition of Figure 3, the specification will be amended in paragraphs [0025] and [0030] to refer to Figure 3.

Sections 4 and 5 contain objections to the specification and the specification has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of these objections in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested. Adhesives and fibers ("fibres" due to European translation) are referred to in numerous locations in the specification, including for example paragraph [0009]. For claim 27, see the specification paragraph [0014]. For claim 28, see the specification paragraphs [0009]. [0010] and [0013]. Claims 30 and 31 are likewise described in this portion of the specification. Paragraphs [0011] through

[0013] clearly describe the subject matter of claims 33-35, and for claim 39 and the materials of the layer, see above.

Based upon the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Sections 6 and 7 set forth a rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been carefully amended to address the rejection, and the claims as amended are believed to be proper under 35 USC 112.

The preferential claim language has been removed.

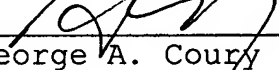
Turning to the rejection based upon prior art, it is submitted that with the amendment to clarify and positively recite the subject matter of the invention, the prior art applied by the Examiner does not anticipate or obviate the claims. Specifically, JP '427 does not disclose a layer or band of material crimped into a flattened portion of the gas supply conduit and interlaced to produce a desired seal. Thus, claim 22 its dependent claims are believed allowable.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 33-42 contained allowable subject matter. These claims have been amended to address the issues raised with respect to the specification, drawings, and 35 USC 112, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

A request for extension of time accompanies this paper and authorizes a deposit account for that fee. It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with this response. If any such fees or fee deficiencies are required in connection with this paper, please charged same to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, George A. Coury, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 25, 2007

